



Central Intelligence Agency  
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

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NOTE FOR THE DCI

The attached letter was written at the request of Evan Hineman in response to concerns expressed by Dr. Beggs. It is intended to reassure him that we are following all Soviet preparations for a large manned space station.



Robert M. Gates

Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP83M00914R000

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REMARKS:		
FROM: OSWR/SSD		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

**FORM NO. 241**  
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(47) -

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9559/82

Washington, D. C. 20505

30 NOV 1982

Mr. James M. Beggs  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
400 Maryland Avenue, S. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20546

Dear Jim,

Your visit of 22 November was greatly appreciated. I enjoyed our discussions and hope they were as beneficial to you as to us. [REDACTED]

25X1

I checked into one point you raised concerning the fact that we should be seeing increased cosmonaut training and other indicators since the Soviets are heading toward a permanent presence in space aboard large space stations. Indeed, we estimate that about 100 cosmonauts currently are in training, compared with 60 in 1967 and 80 in 1977 at the start of the Salyut 6 mission. They have enough trained cosmonauts to undertake permanent manning of a modular space complex and, if they so choose, to undertake a parallel program of manning Salyut 7. [REDACTED]

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A new, large neutral buoyancy tank at their cosmonaut training facility is large enough to hold a three- or four-module space complex, which we estimate they will have in the mid-1980s. We expect a crew of four to nine cosmonauts will man it. Larger stations manned by 10 to 20 cosmonauts are not expected before the late 1980s. [REDACTED]

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We have an Intelligence Assessment in the final stage of publication which contains the above assessments and much more. It is entitled, "Soviet Capabilities and Intentions for Permanently Manned Space Stations." We will send you a personal copy in early December. [REDACTED]

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Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence



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SUBJECT: Letter to Mr. James M. Beggs

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